



Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Evening Meeting: 7.30pm 2nd Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting: 10.00am 3rd Thursday, February to November
Venue: Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt 5040
Website: www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz
Convenor: Alistair Hardy
Secretary: Terry Stock HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor: Suzanne Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS (subject to change)

14 Feb: My Three Scandinavian Grandparents - Jean Thompson-Church
21 Feb: Girls in Bonnets - The Life and Times of the Young Women Who Founded St Mary's College, 1850-1860 - Margaret Deere
14 Mar: Demystifying DNA for genealogy – Lorna Henderson
21 Mar: Visit to the Wellington Archives
11 Apr: My Father's War time exploits – Tricia Glensor
18 Apr: Featherston Military Camp 1916-1919 – Neil Frances
09 May: 30th Anniversary Celebration and AGM

Evening meeting Doors open 7pm. Notices begin 7.30pm. Speakers begin about 8pm (approx 1 hour)

Day meeting Doors open 9.30am. Notices begin 10am. Speaker begins about 10.30am (approx 1 hour). Please note the library does not open until 10am.

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Evening Meeting

“From Scandinavian Dreams to Reality and the Future”. Scandinavian Festival convenor Jean Thompson-Church will speak about her grandparents’ progression from dreams to facing reality and then doing their best for themselves and future generations in Eketahuna and later Petone.

Morning Meeting

Margaret Deere will talk about the four young women who came to Wellington in 1850 and established the first school on the site of what is now St Mary's College. Their story is in her book Girls in Bonnets. Her presentation will start at 10am, which other topics to follow.

OBITUARY

CLARK, William Charles Robert (Bill).

Sadly we have lost one of our life members. Bill, a carpenter, was our maintenance man. Where we used to meet at the Bridge Club, he built the library cupboards and shelving and maintained the microfiche readers. He was on the committee until a few years ago.

Bill had been a member of the Branch since November 1991. He talked at our branch meetings a few times on researching without a computer!

Bill's bio can be found at:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlhvrsg/newsletters/june_2005.pdf

Our condolences to Caroline Aliaga-Kelly for the loss of her husband, Charles. At 94 years old Charles was one of our oldest members (if not the oldest!)

VISIT TO THE WELLINGTON CITY ARCHIVES 21 MARCH 2013

The Archives are situated in Barker Street, off Cambridge Terrace, Wellington.

A list for those interested will be circulated at both the 14th & 21st Feb meetings ... Diane

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

- ✓ 10am -12pm

On duty February and March

- ✓ Wed Feb 20th – Deb Beban & Lynly Yates
 - ✓ Sat Mar 2nd – Janet Ketchell & Carol Ann Mason
 - ✓ Wed Mar 6th – Lois Bartlett & Bob Vine
 - ✓ Wed Mar 20 – Ian Fyfe & Helen Hinton
-

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR HUTT VALLEY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

Our Branch membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March, so it's approaching that time again when fees fall due. We've included the membership renewal form with this newsletter. If you pay before 30 April, as usual there is a \$5 discount!

Please print the membership form at the end of this newsletter and bring it with your payment to a meeting, or post it to the address at the top of the form. If you prefer, you can pay via internet banking. Instructions for this are on the form. If you use the internet banking option, don't forget to include your name in the payment details and do drop us an email to let us know that you have paid and update your contact details as required.

Regards, Anita West, Membership Secretary

RESEARCH DAY 2013

✓ Saturday 6 April

WANTED - AN ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The editor would really like someone to help with the newsletter. This would require putting in all the notices and other contributions and getting it all (mostly) done for proof reading by the Monday before the evening meeting.

WANTED – ANOTHER TREASURER

The treasurer (who is also the editor) would really like someone to assist with the treasurer's job. The bulk of the assistance needed is around the time subs are collected.

Also there is the monthly finance report, receipting, payments, charities commission forms to fill in, balancing the books and preparing them for the auditor and the year end accounts!

You will be trained by an accountant (who is also the current treasurer) and pick up some very useful skills.

NOTTINGHAM PHOTOS

Some time ago I was given some calendar photos of Nottinghamshire for members interested in that part of the UK.

As a further reminder that they have been generously given to the branch the following are some of the scenes:

- Church Warsop, near Sherwood Forest
- Southwell Manor
- Erewash Canal
- Newstead Abbey
- Rufford Abbey
- Hadsok Priory
- Newark Castle

The Photos will be available on the table at the next meetings Diane

INTRODUCING WELLINGTON GREATER LONDON INTEREST GROUP PLUS

We're expanding our horizons beyond the M25!

Wellington GLIG is a small but friendly and knowledgeable group who also have interests in other parts of the UK. Wellington GLIG is the only England-related interest group meeting in the Wellington region. We don't want to tread on the toes of the Scottish or Irish Interest groups but we would like to extend a welcome to anyone who has interests in other parts of England.

If you are interested in English research and prepared to share your knowledge we would love you to join us. We meet on the second Saturday of the month.

The first meeting of Wellington GLIG Plus will be on Saturday 9th March between 2 and 4pm at St Lukes Lower Church Hall Pitt Street Wadestown. There will be a small charge to cover hire of the hall. We look forward to seeing you there. ... Regards – Ann

STREET OF MY ANCESTORS – SAUNDERS LANE, THORNDON by Suzanne Sutton-Cummings

When I purchased a copy of my great grandmother's birth certificate. It said she was born in Saunders Lane on the 13th of April 1899. I had no idea where this lane was until a fellow genealogist suggested the book, *The Streets of my City*.

So there on page 164 it says:

George Street recalls Dr Evans, a leading pioneer of the forties and *Little George Street*, known to most Thorndon residents as "Saunders Lane," Mr. Joseph Saunders, a well-known contractor who lived hard by in Tinakori Road. Here dwelt the carrier "Scott" whose fatal accident inspired yet another story by Katherine Mansfield.

The man the lane was named after, Joseph Saunders, was born in New Zealand and was a well known contractor but came to an unfortunate end. Searching through paperspast, his obituary states that for the last few years of his life he had a problem with insomnia and was taking draughts every night. He eventually took his own life in Palmerston North.

Tinakori Road was originally divided into town acres, one of the original still unsubdivided being Premier House, the Prime Minister's residence. According to Ward's *Wellington* there were also a lot of native reserves set aside on Tinakori Road. Going along this narrow busy road now you see rows of what were 'workers cottages' as well as blocks of more upmarket houses such as 'Katherine Mansfield' House.

Katherine Mansfield's short story, *The Garden-Party* gives an interesting description of what it was like living in Saunders Lane:

... the little cottages were in a lane all to themselves at the very bottom of a steep rise that led up to the house. A broad road ran in between. True, they were far too near. They were the greatest possible eyesore, and they had no right to be in that neighbourhood at all. They were little mean dwellings painted a chocolate brown. In the garden patches were nothing but cabbage stalks, sick hens and tomato cans. The very smoke coming out of their chimneys was poverty-stricken. Little rags and shreds of smoke, so unlike the great silvery plumes that uncurled from the Sheridan's chimneys. Washerwomen lived in the lane and sweeps and a cobbler, and a man whose house-front was studded all over with minute bird-cages. Children swarmed. When the Sheridans were little they were forbidden to set foot there because of the revolting language and of what they might catch. But since they were grown up, Laura and Laurie on their prowls sometimes walked through. It was disgusting and sordid. They came out with a shudder. But still one must go everywhere; one must see everything. So through they went.

The story involves a man named Scott whose horse shied at a traction-engine, corner of Hawke Street killing him instantly leaving a wife and five little ones. His body was brought back to his home in Saunders Lane. A quick search of *paperspast* doesn't bring up anything that this story may have been based on at about that time.

The story also describes where the 'Sheridans' lived. They had a big house with more than one chimney, and outside, karaka trees, a tennis court and enough room to put up a marquee – possibly a town acre.

KATHLEEN MANSFIELD BEAUCHAMP (1888-1923)

Katherine Mansfield as we know her now was born in the house now named after her at 25 (formerly no.11) Tinakori Road in 1888. Her father took up a lease on the house. They only only lived there until 1893 when the family moved to Karori. This house is quite a way down the road from Saunders Lane and Katherine was only five years old when the family moved to Karori.

However, the family moved to 75 Tinakori Road in 1898. Mansfield left New Zealand twice, the first time in 1903 to attend Queens College in London. She returned briefly in 1906 leaving New Zealand in at the age of 19 never to return.

Because the numbering of Tinakori Road has changed it is hard to pinpoint which house exactly is number 75, but in the story that the dead man was '*just outside the front gate*'. According to Chris McLean's *Wellington, Telling Tales*, which shows the following photo Katherine Mansfield lived in the big two-storied house on the rise above the cottages.



This is one of a number of photos taken when a combination of heavy rain and gale force winds, flooded the lane in March 1893.

Would my ancestors' paths have crossed with the Beauchamps? The Beauchamps moved to 25 Tinakori Road in 1898 about the time Amy's parents were married and moved into the lane. It was about 1903 or 1904 when both my family moved and Katherine Mansfield went to London. Perhaps Amy's parents saw 'Laura and Laurie' making their tour of the lane. Little Amy would not have been more than four or five years of age and maybe even in that 'swarm' of children.

Sources:

- ✓ *The Streets of My City, Wellington New Zealand* by F.L. Irving-Smith first published by AH Reed Wellington in November 1948
- ✓ *The Garden Party* by Katherine Mansfield (first published 1922). You can 'google' to find the story online
- ✓ *Wellington Telling Tales*, Chris McLean The Whitcombe Press 2005 pp56-59
- ✓ *Early Wellington*, Luis E.Ward,
- ✓ Paperspast www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz You can search for a name or place.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, MELBOURNE (PROV)

During a visit to Melbourne last month I called into the Public Record Office, Victoria, which is located at 99 Shiel St, North Melbourne, about a 10 minute journey from the CBD by taxi. This is a major State repository holding quite a range of material of interest to genealogists.

On entering I was required to register at the reception desk by the security guard who provided me with a pass, a key to a numbered locker and explained the rules - " no bags, no folders, no pens, just loose papers, pencils, flash drive and a digital camera if you wish. You may come out to get other papers as often as you wish." Once through the airlock you enter a very large reading room which would hold over 20 people comfortably. There were about a dozen computer terminals in place, with microfilm readers in a side room.

I was asked to register on line and given my own password .- very useful for ordering purposes. The computer database contains a wide range of BDM's, shipping records, wills etc. Having obtained the reference number for a shipping record I found my great-grandfather James Hardy listed as an assisted immigrant on the "Royal Saxon" in 1841 at Port Phillip. Sadly the photocopies of the fiche entry were of poor quality; next time I will take a flash drive and my digital camera with me.

I placed a request for a Coroner's report on the death in 1895 of a James Hardy. On my return a few days later I was given a plastic folder containing the original police report , innkeeper's statement, Doctor's statement and Coroner's report on this death. It was the correct name and right year, but no connection to our James.

The archive will hold requested material for 10 days before returning it to storage. This archive is well worth a visit, but you would get most value by doing as much research on-line as possible before going there.

Alistair Hardy

WEBSITES

- British Archives Australasian Collection - Click on 'slideshow' and enjoy old pictures of Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific Islands put online in time for Australia Day - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/australasia/>
- British Archives Exhibitions – find out a whole lot of fascinating stuff such as censuses, politics, the Domesday book, wars, politics, the British empire, maps, crime and punishment and more - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/exhibitions/default.htm>
- Births, deaths and celebrations notices going online: - DomPost, Press
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/blogs/the-inside-story/8275005/Births-deaths-and-celebrations-notices-going-online>
- Obituaries online - active since 11 Feb 2013. They also have a search facility
<http://deaths.stuff.co.nz/obituaries/stuff-nz/>

Hutt Valley Branch New Zealand Society of Genealogists

P O Box 31-024, Lower Hutt 5040

Membership Renewal 2013

Household (Joint) members need only complete one form. The two columns are provided so that both members' details can be recorded.

NZSG NUMBER		
SURNAME		
PREFERRED NAME		
GIVEN NAMES		
ADDRESS		<i>Post code</i>
EMAIL		
PHONE		
OCCUPATION/EXPERIENCE		
NEWSLETTER	<i>Currently receive newsletter by:</i> Change to Email Papercopy Please circle your preferred format	

<u>FEES</u>	Circle fee applicable
SINGLE	\$25.00 <i>If paid by 30 April 2013, please deduct a discount of \$5</i>
HOUSEHOLD (JOINT)	\$35.00 <i>If paid by 30 April 2013, please deduct a discount of \$5</i>
NEWSLETTER ONLY	\$10.00
LIBRARY DONATION <i>(Tax deductible)</i>	\$
GENERAL DONATION <i>(Tax deductible)</i>	\$
TOTAL	\$

Payment Options

- Cheque or Cash - to a branch meeting with the renewal notice
 - Cheque - together with the renewal notice to the above Post office address
- Please make Cheques payable to Hutt Valley Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists**
- Deposit directly into the branch bank account at the bank branch or through Internet / Phone banking

The details required are:

Payee name - Hutt Valley Branch NZSG *Payee bank account number* 01 0530 0289489 00

In the Payee Statement Details please enter: your surname, given name and subs

If you are depositing directly into the bank account please send an email to huttvalley@genealogy.org.nz advising details about the payment and how you would like to get your membership card.

Membership card

Please tick option for obtaining your membership card:

- Pick up from branch meeting
 Posted to you

Privacy Act

Personal information that you supply to the Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists will be used for Branch and administration purposes. If you **DO NOT** want your name or any personal details to be made available to other people who may wish to contact you for genealogy purposes then tick here _____

Office Use only Receipt Number Date.....